

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Washington, D. C.

Minutes - The Faculty Senate
Special Meeting - Friday, September 25, 1970
Faculty Conference Room, sixth floor of the Library

Minute 1 President Elliott presided. He opened the meeting at 2:10 p.m., stating it was called as a special meeting with one item to be considered, Resolution 70/1 to be presented by Professor Perros, Chairman of the Educational Policy Committee.

Minute 2 Professor Perros read a statement (appended) which incorporated the main points raised during discussions of the resolution by the Educational Policy Committee. The statement was not intended to represent different positions but to indicate to the Senate the points which were raised in debate. Professor Perros stated that he had asked members of his committee to be present to supplement his statement if they so desired. All possibilities of the Princeton Plan were considered. The committee attempted to discuss every possible alternative fully. Professor Perros moved the adoption of the resolution. Professor Stevens seconded.

Professor Kirsch called the question.

Professor Stevens raised a point of order, saying that he had intended his second to include the entire resolution, Sections A and B. Professor Perros accepted this interpretation and suggested that the Senate should consider more thoroughly Section B of the resolution. Professor Kirsch withdrew his previous call of the question.

President Elliott ruled that the question before the Senate was the adoption of the entire resolution, and that it was now open for debate.

After discussion by Professors Griffith, Perros, LeBlanc, and Pock, Professor Pock moved to delete Section B of the resolution. Professor Highfill seconded.

After discussion of the amendment by Professors Robinson and Pock, Professor Allen moved an amendment to the amendment--to substitute "Each professor is urged to cooperate in making it possible for students wishing to participate in election activities to do so without academic penalty, including affording them opportunity and assistance in making up missed work." Professor Griffith seconded. After discussion of the Allen amendment by Professors Robinson, Griffith, Pock, Reesing, Allen, Kirsch, Perros, Student Alby Segall, Professor Morgan, and Student Henry Ziegler, Professor Robinson called the question. The President put the question and the Allen amendment was lost.

The President ruled that the business before the Senate was the Pock amendment. After discussion by Professor Kahn, Professor Robinson moved a substitute for the Pock amendment: after Section B, add the words "subject to the requirements of a bona fide maintenance of the normal program as provided in Section A of the resolution." The President ruled the amendment was lost for want of a second.

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The President ruled that the Pock amendment to delete Section B was before the Senate. The question was put and the amendment carried.

The President then ruled that the resolution now consisting only of Section A was before the Senate. After discussion by Professors Pock, Perros, Kirsch, Highfill, and Reesing, the question was called and Resolution 70/1 was passed.

Minute 3 The President adjourned the meeting at 3:15 p.m.

Frederick R Houser
Frederick R. Houser
Secretary

Faculty Senate Meeting 9/25/70

Statement read by Professor Theodore Perros, Chairman of the Educational Policy Committee, at the beginning of the special Faculty Senate meeting on September 25, 1970, "to incorporate the main points which were raised during discussions of our committee during June and July. It is not intended to represent different positions, but to recall what the notes indicate, and to give the Senate an opportunity to hear the points raised."

Points for the Campaign Recess

The nation is passing through a critical stage of its history. At no period in the past has the youth of this country and especially students been aroused to a level of concern for the direction and priorities of the government's policies that they feel obligated to participate in the election campaign to assist those candidates whom the students believe are sympathetic to their objectives. A sweeping change is surging through the nation and the universities cannot remain passive to this shift. It is now that the institutions must assume a role of leadership and assist in channeling the energies of its citizens and especially students of the nation to constructive goals. No better action could there be than to declare a campaign recess for the students of the nation's colleges and universities. This would be an important step in leadership for it would focus attention of the electorate on the citizens' responsibility to participate in the political life of the nation. A two-week campaign recess prior to the elections compensated by an equal extension of the academic calendar or by other measures is a positive contribution to this end. Moreover, this would be an opportunity for the students to experience first hand the mechanics of the election process. In addition, it would be a clear indication that students are willing to work within the system to achieve change and to do so responsibly. Finally, it would provide an outlet for their energies which otherwise may be directed toward unproductive demonstrations.

Points Against the Campaign Recess

Education is the central function of a university. Education is essential to the survival and development of the society of which an institution is a part. To preserve its academic integrity the university as a corporate entity must remain neutral to any outside activity which might tend to compromise the status of education as its primary function. Neutrality here does not imply indifference or unconcern by each individual with the problems of the community, nation or outside world but only to the institution as an entity. Were a campaign recess to be declared for participation in the congressional election process, it would clearly imply an equivalence or preeminence of political activity to education as the major purpose of an institution. It would be a precedent which would lead inevitably to similar actions in the future. Surely primary elections are no less important. Rationally, a recess declared for the former case cannot be denied for the latter. And what about local elections? They cannot be dismissed as unimportant. Moreover, at any instant situations may arise nationally or internationally to which students might well be moved by a sense of obligation to participate in political activity.

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If the principle of granting a recess for political activity is established, the university must then determine the criteria by which it decides what cause deserves special consideration. It is a certainty that in this determination students and faculty would be drawn into the deliberations with deep division in positions being the only preordained result. The politicizing of the university would be at hand. Inevitably a reshaping of its goals to political activity would occur coupled with a simultaneous erosion of its educational functions.

There are other factors. If a campaign recess were to be declared, what consideration do those students deserve who, for whatever reasons, choose not to be political? Whether such a group represents a majority or minority of students is unimportant in relation to the fact that a recess is an imposition against which they have little chance for redress. Their concern for an uninterrupted continuation of their studies cannot be rejected out of hand for it was for this purpose that they enrolled at the university and paid their tuition.

Consider further that students, some part-time and others not, some married and with families, and others not, some residing in the local area and others in the nation and in the world plan their presences in Washington, their business trips and their vacations well in advance and in accordance to the calendar published in the G. W. catalog which is issued early in the spring of each year. Any revision of the academic schedule would necessarily effect changes in the previously arranged plans of a number of students. This, too, is an imposition on those affected which cannot be disregarded.

Students insist that they be treated as responsible adults. Let them manifest this responsibility in political activity as most other citizens do by engaging in this practice on their own free time. Hospitals do not shut down nor do the doctors and surgeons suspend their duties for a campaign recess; neither does the fire department, nor do the legion of other businesses and professions declare a period of abstention from work to engage in political activity.

Were a campaign recess to be declared, would not a large segment of society look upon this as a preferential consideration for students and faculty, a kind of luxury which the general public does not enjoy? Resentment by the general public has been and is being directed against students and faculty across the nation. This has been manifested in a number of actions taken by state legislatures in bills relating to the operations of their institutions. These reflect a political reaction to recent events on the campuses. If institutions assume a political role or if an action is taken which the general public construes to be political, whether it is in fact or not, then the institutions must accept the consequences of political reaction. In the final analysis, society sustains institutions and without this continued support they cannot exist.

A university must remain an element in society in which ideas are paramount, an arena so to speak, free from external pressures and influences where free discussions determine their acceptance or rejections, where all viewpoints may be heard without fear of intimidation or restraint and where the timeless quest for the elusive concept of truth may continue unrestrained in an atmosphere of reason. Teaching, learning, research and scholarship are the elements of education. These have been and are now the foundations of a university. To embark an institution upon a new direction outside of its chosen role of education is a dangerous step whose consequences are surely to be to the detriment of all students and faculty.

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Washington, D. C.

A RESOLUTION CONCERNING CAMPAIGN RECESS, 70/1

Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of The George Washington University recommends

- A. The University carry out the 1970-71 academic schedule as now published;
- B. Each professor take cognizance of the responsibilities of the individual student as a citizen of society at election time.

Educational Policy Committee

September 16, 1970

Passed as amended September 25, 1970

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY
Washington, D. C.

The Faculty Senate

September 16, 1970

There will be a special meeting of the Faculty Senate on Friday, September 25, 1970, at 2:10 p.m. in the Faculty Conference Room on the sixth floor of the Library, at the direction of the Faculty Senate Executive Committee to consider the memorandum of June 18, 1970, from Chairman Theodore Perros for the Educational Policy Committee.

Agenda:

- 1) Call to order
- 2) Resolution: Be it resolved that the Faculty Senate of The George Washington University recommends
 - A. The University carry out the 1970-71 academic schedule as now published;
 - B. Each professor take cognizance of the responsibilities of the individual student as a citizen of society at election time.
- 3) Adjournment

Frederick R Houser
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Secretary